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CLAIMS

1. A method for recycling thermal insulation material which is formed of vacuum insulation material having inorganic material as a core material and of rigid urethane foam, the method comprising:

a step of pulverizing the thermal insulation material; and

an inorganic material content adjusting step of adjusting a percentage of inorganic material content in mixed material consisting of the thermal insulation material pulverized.

2. The method for recycling the thermal insulation material according to claim 1 further comprising:

a step of pulverizing second thermal insulation material consisting of rigid urethane foam, wherein

the inorganic material content adjusting step is a step of mixing the pulverized thermal insulation material containing the vacuum insulation material with the second thermal insulation material pulverized, thereby obtaining the mixed material with a prescribed percentage value of inorganic material content.

3. The method for recycling the thermal insulation

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material according to claim 1, wherein

the inorganic material content adjusting step includes a sorting operation to sort out the inorganic material from the rigid urethane foam in the pulverized thermal insulation material, thereby obtaining the mixed material with a prescribed percentage value of inorganic material content.

4. The method for recycling the thermal insulation material according to claim 3, wherein

the sorting operation is air sorting which makes use of difference in specific gravity between the inorganic material and the rigid urethane foam.

5. The method for recycling the thermal insulation material according to claim 3, wherein

the sorting operation is classification which makes use of difference in grain size between the pulverized inorganic material and the pulverized rigid urethane foam.

6. The method for recycling the thermal insulation material according to claim 1 further comprising:

a separating step of cutting out the vacuum insulation material and the rigid urethane foam as an

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integral unit from a main body of a refrigerator.

7. The method for recycling the thermal insulation material according to claim 1 further comprising:

5 a waste material processing step of processing the mixed material obtained in the inorganic material adjusting step into a recyclable form.

8. The method for recycling the thermal insulation material according to claim 7, wherein

10 the waste material processing step is a step of molding a particle board, and includes an operation to pressurize the mixed material.

15 9. The method for recycling the thermal insulation material according to claim 7, wherein

the waste material processing step is a step of producing vacuum insulation material, and includes:

an operation to powder the mixed material; and

20 a step of sealing the powder thus obtained into a packaging member under a reduced pressure.

10. The method for recycling the thermal insulation material according to claim 1 further comprising:

25 a discriminating step of reading an inorganic

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material weight value and a rigid urethane foam weight value from a discriminating means owned by a refrigerator, wherein

the inorganic material content adjusting step makes
5 use of the inorganic material weight value and the rigid urethane foam weight value in order to adjust the percentage of inorganic material content in the mixed material.

10 11. The method for recycling the thermal insulation material according to claim 1, wherein

the inorganic material is a glass fiber assembly.

12. A recycled article made by recycling thermal
15 insulation material which is formed of vacuum insulation material having inorganic material as a core material and of rigid urethane foam, wherein

mixed material which is formed of the vacuum insulation material and the rigid urethane foam has an
20 inorganic material content that is adjusted to be not less than 0.01% nor more than 99.99%.

13. The recycled article according to claim 12, wherein

the article is a particle board which is made by
25 pressurizing and molding the mixed material.

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14. The recycled article according to claim 12, wherein
the article is vacuum insulation material which is
made by sealing a powder consisting of the mixed material
5 into a packaging member under a reduced pressure.

15. The recycled article according to claim 14, wherein
the powder contains inorganic material of not less
than 0.1% nor more than 20%.

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16. A refrigerator containing thermal insulation
material which is formed of vacuum insulation material
having inorganic material as a core material and of rigid
urethane foam, the refrigerator comprising:

15 a discriminating means, the discriminating means
recording information that the thermal insulation
material contains the vacuum insulation material.

17. The refrigerator according to claim 16, wherein
20 the discriminating means stores a weight value of
the inorganic material and a weight value of the rigid
urethane foam.

18. The refrigerator according to claim 16, wherein
25 the discriminating means is provided on a surface

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of an outer box of the refrigerator.

19. The refrigerator according to claim 16, wherein
the discriminating means is a medium capable of
5 electronic reading.

20. The refrigerator according to claim 16, wherein
the inorganic material is a glass fiber assembly.